

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1.- 43. (canceled).

44. (new): An image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication, comprising:

a transmitting unit, adapted to send E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a receiving unit, adapted to receive E-mail data;

a requesting unit, adapted to add, selectively, information for requesting a message disposition notification to the E-mail data to be sent to a receiver by said transmitting unit;

a communication managing unit, adapted to manage transmission management information of the sent E-mail data;

a judgment unit, adapted to make a judgment as to whether or not transmission of the sent E-mail data to which the information for requesting the message disposition notification was added succeeded, on the basis of the message disposition notification included in the E-mail data received by said receiving unit; and

a notifying unit, adapted to send a notification to a user of said image communicating apparatus based on the transmission management information managed by said communication managing unit,

wherein said communication managing unit updates the transmission management information by information showing whether or not the transmission of the sent E-mail data succeeded, on the basis of a judged result provided by said judgment unit, and

wherein said notifying unit notifies the user of said image communicating apparatus whether or not the transmission of the sent E-mail data succeeded, on the basis of the updated transmission management information, so that the user of said image communicating apparatus can confirm whether or not the transmission of the sent E-mail data succeeded, without reading the message disposition information.

45. (new): An image communicating apparatus according to Claim 44, further comprising a selecting unit, adapted to select ON/OFF of execution of said requesting unit, wherein said communication managing unit manages ON/OFF of the request of the message disposition notification as transmission management information for each of the sent E-mail data.

46. (new): An image communicating apparatus according to Claim 44, wherein said communication managing unit updates the transmission management information to first information, showing that the message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail data has been received.

47. (new): An image communicating apparatus according to Claim 44, wherein said communication managing unit updates the transmission management

information to second information, showing that the message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail data was not received within a predetermined period of time.

48. (new): An image communicating apparatus according to Claim 44, wherein said notifying unit visually outputs the transmission management information which is managed by said communication managing unit.

49. (new): An image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication, comprising:

- a transmitting unit, adapted to send E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

- a receiving unit, adapted to receive E-mail data;

- a requesting unit, adapted to add, selectively, information for requesting a message disposition notification to the E-mail data to be sent to a receiver by said transmitting unit;

- a judgment unit, adapted to make a judgment as to whether or not transmission of the sent E-mail data to which the information for requesting the message disposition notification was added, on the basis of the message disposition notification included in the E-mail data received by said receiving unit; and

- a notifying unit, adapted to be able to notify whether or not the transmission of the sent E-mail data succeeded based on a judged result by said judgment unit, without reading the message disposition notification by a user of said image communicating apparatus.

50. (new): An image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication, comprising:

an E-mail receiving unit, adapted to receive E-mail;

a detecting unit, adapted to detect control information which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail received by said E-mail receiving unit;

an output unit, adapted to visually output the E-mail received by said E-mail receiving unit; and

a notifying unit, adapted to notify a user of said image communicating apparatus that the E-mail having the control information was received, based on the detection of the control information from the E-mail by said detecting unit before contents of the E-mail which the control information is detected are visually outputted.

51. (new): An image communicating apparatus according to Claim 50, wherein the control information is information for requesting reply E-mail indicative of a message disposition notification of the E-mail.

52. (new): An image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication, comprising:

an E-mail receiving unit, adapted to receive E-mail accompanied by an image file;

a detecting unit, adapted to detect control information which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail received by said E-mail receiving unit; and

an output unit, adapted to visually output contents of the image file attached to the received E-mail,

wherein said output unit adds information indicative of the detection of the control information to a part of the image, and visually outputs the acquired image to the contents of the image file attached to the E-mail of which the control information was detected.

53. (new): An image communicating apparatus according to Claim 52, wherein when the image file attached to the E-mail of which the control information was detected is visually outputted, if the reply E-mail responsive to the control information has already been sent, said notifying unit adds information indicative of a completion of a response to the control information to a part of the image.

54. (new): An image communicating apparatus for sending and receiving image information through a communication network, comprising:

an E-mail unit, adapted to send and receive E-mail via an E-mail server connected to the communication network;

a memory unit, adapted to store communication management information of the E-mail;

a communication management information forming unit, adapted to, each time the E-mail is sent by said E-mail unit, form communication management information of the sent E-mail and store the communication management information into said memory unit;

a judgment unit, adapted to make a judgment as to whether or not the sending of the E-mail succeeded, based on a delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from the E-mail server;

an updating unit, adapted to update information showing a transmission result of the sent E-mail included in the communication management information of the sent E-mail based on a judgment result by said judgment unit; and

a communication management report output unit, adapted to output a communication management report indicative of the communication management information stored in said memory unit, so that a user of said image communicating apparatus can confirm whether or not transmission of the sent E-mail succeeded, without reading the delivery status notification.

55. (new): An image communicating apparatus according to Claim 54, wherein the delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server is a notification showing one of a failed notification, a delayed notification, a normal end of transmission notification, and a relayed notification as a transmission result of the sent E-mail.

56. (new): An image communicating apparatus according to Claim 54, further comprising a discriminating unit, adapted to discriminate whether or not the delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server has been received by said E-mail unit after the elapse of a predetermined period of time from the transmission of the E-mail,

wherein if it is determined by said discriminating unit that the delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server has been received, said updating unit updates the transmission result of the communication management information of the E-mail which has received the delivery status notification in accordance with the received delivery status notification, and

said communication management report output unit outputs a communication management report in which the transmission result was updated as a communication management report of the sent E-mail.

57. (new): An image communicating apparatus according to Claim 54, wherein if it is determined by said discriminating unit that the delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server is not received, said communication management report output unit outputs a communication management report in which the transmission result of the sent E-mail has successfully been finished.

58. (new): An image communicating apparatus for sending and receiving image information through a communication network, comprising:

an E-mail unit, adapted to send and receive an E-mail via an E-mail server connected to the communication network;

an analyzing unit, adapted to, when a delivery status notification returned from the E-mail server in response to the E-mail transmitted to a recipient by said E-mail unit is received, analyze contents of the received delivery status notification, and decide whether or not the sent E-mail was received by the recipient; and

a notifying unit, adapted to notify a user of said image communicating apparatus that the sent E-mail was not received, in response to a result of an analysis of the received delivery status notification by said analyzing unit indicating that the sent E-mail was not received.

59. (new): An image communicating apparatus according to Claim 58, wherein said notifying unit further comprises a unit adapted to generate a warning sound as error notification information.

60. (new): An image communicating apparatus according to Claim 58, wherein said notifying unit further comprises a unit adapted to print error notification information.

61. (new): An image communicating apparatus according to Claim 58, wherein said notifying unit further comprises a unit adapted to display error notification information.

62. (new): An image communicating method used in an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication, comprising:

- a transmitting step, of sending E-mail data accompanied by an image file;
- a receiving step of receiving E-mail data;

a requesting step, of selectively adding information for requesting a message disposition notification to the E-mail data to be sent to a receiver in said transmitting step;

a communication managing step, of managing transmission management information of each of sent E-mail data;

a judgment step, of judging whether or not transmission of the sent E-mail data to which the information for requesting the message disposition notification was added succeeded, on the basis of the message disposition notification included in the E-mail data received in said receiving step; and

a notifying step, of sending a notification to a user of the image communicating apparatus based on the transmission management information managed in said communication managing step,

wherein said communication managing step includes updating the transmission management information by information showing whether or not the transmission of the sent E-mail data succeeded, on the basis of a judged result in said judgment step, and

wherein said notifying step includes notifying the user of the image communicating apparatus whether or not the transmission of the sent E-mail data succeeded, on the basis of the updated transmission management information, so that the user of the image communicating apparatus can confirm whether or not the transmission of the sent E-mail data succeeded, without reading the message disposition information.

63. (new): An image communicating method used in an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication, comprising:

a transmitting step, of sending E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a receiving step of receiving E-mail data;

a requesting step, of selectively adding information for requesting a message disposition notification to the E-mail data to be sent to a receiver in said transmitting step;

a judging step, of judging whether or not transmission of the sent E-mail data to which the information for requesting the message disposition notification was added, on the basis of the message disposition notification included in the E-mail data received in said receiving step; and

a notifying step, of being able to notify whether or not the transmission of the sent E-mail data succeeded based on a judged result in said judgment step, without reading the message disposition notification by a user of the image communicating apparatus.

64. (new): An image communicating method used in an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication, comprising:

a receiving step, of receiving E-mail;

a detecting step, of detecting control information which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail received in said E-mail receiving step; and

a notifying step, of notifying a user of the image communicating apparatus that the E-mail having the control information was received, based on the detection of the control information from the E-mail in said detecting step before contents of the E-mail are visually outputted.

65. (new): An image communicating method used in an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication, comprising:

a receiving step, of receiving E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a detecting step, of detecting control information which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail data received in said E-mail receiving step; and

an output step, of visually outputting contents of the image file attached to the received E-mail,

wherein said output step includes adding information indicative of the detection of the control information to a part of the image, and visually outputting the acquired image to the image file attached to the E-mail of which the control information was detected.

66. (new): A communicating result managing method which is used in an image communicating apparatus which can perform a transmission and reception of E-mail through an E-mail server connected to a communication network, comprising the steps of:

forming, each time an E-mail is sent, communication management information of the sent E-mail and storing the communication management information into memory unit;

judging whether or not the sending of the sent E-mail succeeded, based on a delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server;

updating information showing a transmission result of the sent E-mail included in the communication management information of the sent E-mail, based on a judgment result in said judging step; and

outputting a communication management report indicative of the communication management information stored in the memory unit, so that a user of the image communicating apparatus can confirm whether or not transmission of the sent E-mail succeeded, without reading the delivery status notification.

67. (new): A communicating result managing method which is used in an image communicating apparatus which can perform a transmission and reception of E-mail through an E-mail server connected to a communication network, comprising:

an E-mail transmission step of transmitting the E-mail to a recipient through the E-mail server;

an analyzing step, of, in a case where a delivery status notification returned from the E-mail server in response to the sent E-mail transmitted in said E-mail transmission step is received, analyzing contents of the received delivery status notification, and deciding whether or not the sent E-mail was received by the recipient; and

a notifying step, of notifying a user of the image communicating apparatus that the sent E-mail was not received by the recipient, in response to a result of an analysis of the received delivery status notification in said analyzing step indicating that the sent E-mail was not received.

68. (new): A storage medium which stores therein a computer program to cause a computer to execute an image communicating method used in an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication, said method comprising:

a transmitting step, of sending E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a receiving step of receiving E-mail data;

a requesting step, of selectively adding information for requesting a message disposition notification to the E-mail data to be sent to a receiver in said transmitting step;

a communication managing step, of managing transmission management information of each of sent E-mail data;

a judgment step, of judging whether or not transmission of the sent E-mail data to which the information for requesting the message disposition notification was added succeeded, on the basis of the message disposition notification included in the E-mail data received in said receiving step; and

a notifying step, of sending a notification to a user of the image communicating apparatus based on the transmission management information managed in said communication managing step,

wherein said communication managing step includes updating the transmission management information by information showing whether or not the transmission of the sent E-mail data succeeded, on the basis of a judged result in said judgment step, and

wherein said notifying step includes notifying the user of the image communicating apparatus whether or not the transmission of the sent E-mail data succeeded, on the basis of the updated transmission management information, so that the user of the image communicating apparatus can confirm whether or not the transmission of the sent E-mail data succeeded, without reading the message disposition information.

69. (new): A storage medium which stores therein a computer program to cause a computer to execute an image communicating method used in an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication, said method comprising:

a transmitting step, of sending E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a receiving step of receiving E-mail data;

a requesting step, of selectively adding information for requesting a message disposition notification to the E-mail data to be sent to a receiver in said transmitting step;

a judgment step, of judging whether or not transmission of the sent E-mail data to which the information for requesting the message disposition notification was added, on the basis of the message disposition notification included in the E-mail data received in said receiving step; and

a notifying step, of being able to notify whether or not the transmission of the sent E-mail data succeeded based on a judged result in said judgment step, without reading the message disposition notification by a user of the image communicating apparatus.

70. (new): A storage medium which stores therein a computer program to cause a computer to execute an image communicating method used in an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication, said method comprising:

a receiving step, of receiving E-mail;

a detecting step, of detecting control information which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail received in said E-mail receiving step; and

a notifying step, of notifying a user of the image communicating apparatus that the E-mail having the control information was received, based on the detection of the control information from the E-mail in said detecting step before contents of the E-mail are visually outputted.

71. (new): A storage medium which stores therein a computer program to cause a computer to execute an image communicating method used in an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication, said method comprising:

a receiving step, of receiving E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a detecting step, of detecting control information which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail data received in said E-mail receiving step; and

an output step, of visually outputting contents of the image file attached to the received E-mail,

wherein said output step includes adding information indicative of the detection of the control information to a part of the image, and visually outputting the acquired image to the image file attached to the E-mail of which the control information was detected.

72. (new): A storage medium which stores therein a computer program to cause a computer to execute a communicating result managing method which is used in an image communicating apparatus which can perform a transmission and reception of E-mail through an E-mail server connected to a communication network, said method comprising the steps of:

forming, each time an E-mail is sent, communication management information of the sent E-mail and storing the communication management information into a memory unit;

judging whether or not the sending of the sent E-mail succeeded, based on a delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from the E-mail server;

updating information showing a transmission result of the sent E-mail included in the communication management information of the sent E-mail, based on a judgment result in said judging step; and

outputting a communication management report indicative of the communication management information stored in the memory unit, so that a user of the image communicating apparatus can confirm whether or not transmission of the sent E-mail succeeded, without reading the delivery status notification.

73. (new): A storage medium which stores therein a computer program to cause a computer to execute a communicating result managing method which is used in an image communicating apparatus which can perform a transmission and reception of E-mail through an E-mail server connected to a communication network, said method comprising:

an E-mail transmission step of transmitting the E-mail to a recipient through the E-mail server;

an analyzing step, of, in a case where a delivery status notification returned from the E-mail server in response to the sent E-mail transmitted in said E-mail transmission step is received, analyzing contents of the received delivery status notification, and deciding whether or not the sent E-mail was received by the recipient; and

a notifying step, of notifying a user of the image communicating apparatus that the sent E-mail was not received by the recipient, in response to a result of an analysis of the received delivery status notification in said analyzing step indicating that the sent E-mail was not received.